

and Information Infrastructure Assistance Program grants. Additional funding for the Center is provided by a number of government, foundation, corporate and individual donors including the Eastmont Town Center, Pacific Gas and Electric, Chevron, Pacific Bell, The San Francisco Foundation, Oracle, Hewlett Packard and IBM.

I wish to commend the management and staff of the Eastmont Computing Center for their tireless work and for their diligence. It has been through their perseverance that they have garnered the resources necessary to establish and operate this training facility for the benefit of all the citizens of Oakland.

I wish to extend to the Eastmont Computing Center, its staff, donors and support volunteers sincere best wishes for success as they begin to deliver technology access and employment training services to the citizens of Oakland.

#### RECOGNIZING JAN JACOBS

#### HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 12, 1999*

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I now recognize Jan Jacobs of Creede, Colorado. After 29 years of dedication to education and long hours of planning as a teacher of History, Geography, and Government, Ms. Jacobs has retired. I would like to thank her for her commitment to the youth of Creede and for her involvement in the Creede community.

After graduating from Western State, Ms. Jacobs taught for three years in Nebraska before making Creede her home. Jan Jacobs not only taught, but she cared and was dedicated to her students. She served as a sponsor for trips to Washington, D.C. and annual trips to Mesa Verde. Trips to Denver and various other projects were made possible through her efforts.

Ms. Jan Jacobs touched the lives of countless individuals through her work in education. Students undoubtedly gained much and benefitted greatly from her expertise and kindness. As students, parents, and community members say farewell to this much-respected and loved teacher, I would like to wish her well as she enters a new era of her life, and congratulate her on a remarkable career of dedication and service.

#### TRIBUTE TO REV. LINDSAY G. FIELDS OF HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA

#### HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 12, 1999*

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the life and legacy of Rev. Lindsay G. Fields of Huntsville, Alabama, an extraordinary man whose one hundred and seven years were marked by a true sense of compassion and a dedication of God and his family.

Rev. L.G. Fields was born in Harris, Alabama on February 6, 1892 and spent over fifty

years in the United Methodist ministry. He spent sixteen years in Gadsden as pastor of Sweet Home Methodist Church and then led Village view Methodist Church in Athens until his retirement.

The long and blessed life of Rev. Fields included a passion for education. He attended the American School of Correspondence in Chicago and then Gammon Theological Seminary in Atlanta. He continued his love of education by serving on the board of trustees for Clark and Rust Colleges.

For Rev. Fields, community service was a way of life. He worked with the Madison County Council on Aging, the Mental Health Centers, the Madison County Senior Center and the Model Cities Program. I believe this tribute is only fitting for one who has given so much of himself for others.

I commend the perseverance of Rev. Fields is the raising and educating of his twelve children with the late Rosa Perry Fields. With 24 grandchildren and 22 great-grandchildren, Rev. Fields has left a proud and beloved legacy. I offer my sympathy to the Fields family.

On behalf of the people of Alabama's fifth Congressional District, I join them in celebrating the extraordinary life and honoring the memory of a man who filled his one hundred and seven years with a love of God, country and family.

#### CONGRATULATING DEE ARNTZ

#### HON. JAY INSLEE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 12, 1999*

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to announce that one of my constituents, Ms. Dee Arntz, recently won the 1999 National Wetlands Award.

In 1990, Ms. Arntz co-founded the Washington Wetlands Network (Wetnet). The Wetnet organization connects citizens, local government officials, federal representatives, and others into a centralized network of people concerned about wetland protection and preservation. As a result, this important network approach gives small organizations information and links to larger state and national efforts. Through Ms. Arntz's efforts, citizens have joined together to protect thousands of wetland acres throughout Washington State.

In the process of building Wetnet, Ms. Arntz worked as a community development program administrator for King County and other Puget Sound local governments. Her experience also includes serving on the boards of the Seattle Audubon Society, the Nisqually Delta Association, and the Washington Environmental Council. In addition, Ms. Arntz earned a Certificate in Wetlands Science and Management from the University of Washington in 1995.

I would like to congratulate Ms. Arntz for winning the 1999 National Wetlands Award. Her dedication to wetland protection has led to major environmental accomplishments at both the state and national level. Ms. Arntz is an example of the enormous impact one citizen can have on the environment. This award is very well-deserved.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. KENNY C. HULSHOF

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 12, 1999*

Mr. HULSHOF. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to rule changes for the 106th Congress, I am informing you that I missed one vote on Friday, June 25, 1999, rollcall No. 256. On this vote, I would have voted "aye".

#### VETERANS BENEFITS IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1999

SPEECH OF

#### HON. BARON P. HILL

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 29, 1999*

Mr. HILL of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2280, the Veterans' Benefits Improvement Act of 1999.

I believe that this bill makes some important changes to the benefits available to veterans. I am a cosponsor of this bill. It increases rates of disability compensation and indemnity compensation to veterans. It enhances the quality assurance program at the Veterans Benefits Administration. It also provides permanent eligibility for housing loans for members of the Selected Reserve. And it reauthorizes important programs for homeless veterans.

I wanted to be sure to mention this bill because another of its provisions helps get construction of the World War II Memorial underway. This past Memorial Day, I attended a wonderful ceremony back in Versailles, Indiana. At that ceremony the American Legion Post in Versailles presented me with a check for one thousand dollars to forward to the American Battle Monuments Commission to help build the World War II Memorial. That struck me as uncommon generosity from men and women who have already given so much.

I salute them and all the people who are making this monument possible. The more we work toward building this memorial, the more World War II veterans will be able to see this proud symbol of what our "Greatest Generation" accomplished.

I ask my fellow members of Congress to support the Veterans' Benefits Improvement Act because it honors our veterans and helps to provide the benefits that they have earned.

Since taking office in January I have been talking to the House leadership about ways I could become more involved in Veterans' issues. Last week, I'm proud to say that I received a seat on the Veterans' Committee. I know that we owe a lot to those who currently serve our country and also to those who have served in the past. With this appointment I hope I can make a real difference for all our veterans.

This year, one of our nation's oldest and most distinguished service organizations, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, celebrates its 100-year anniversary. I was first reminded by constituents that this year marked that important anniversary.

The first bill I sponsored and the first speech I made in the United States House of Representatives was to celebrate and recognize the Veterans of Foreign Wars by requesting that the U.S. Postal Service issue a stamp